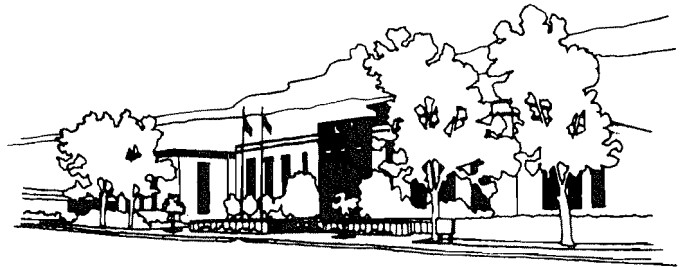
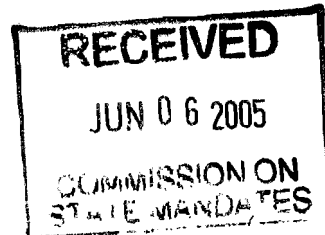


City of San Leandro
Civic Center, 835 E. 14th Street
San Leandro, California 94577



Office of the Mayor 510-577-3356
Fax 510-577-3340

June 1, 2005



Commission on State Mandates
980 9th Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to urge the Commission to reconsider your March 30 decision to no longer reimburse Councils of Governments (COG) for performing the state-mandated regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) process.

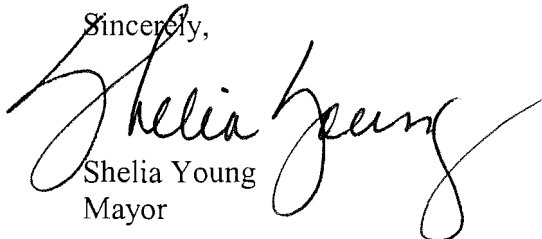
COGs have been providing this vital service for decades. Expecting COGs to charge local jurisdictions for the RHNA process is equally unrealistic and counterproductive. Given the other permitting and development fees local governments must already charge, adding a RHNA fee will substantively add to housing costs, discouraging housing development and defeating the object of the RHNA.

In 2004, the State enacted changes to the Housing Element Law that ostensibly improve RHNA as a planning tool and as a tool for increased housing production. These changes also make the RHNA process more costly for COGs, as well as more complicated for cities and counties to implement. The decision to not fund the RHNA process exacerbates the problem of trying to meet these new costly guidelines.

For these reasons and others, please rescind your decision to no longer reimburse Councils of Governments for the regional housing needs allocation process.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,


Shelia Young
Mayor

cc: City Council

